



August 4, 2020

Dear Edgewood Community,

Thank you for your feedback on the opening of Edgewood High School for the 2020/21 school year. We would like to clarify the Board of Trustees' decision and provide additional information.

The parent survey results revealed that a large majority (85%) of EHS parents favor in-person instruction. It is our goal to provide options to safely meet the educational needs of all of our families.

EHS is committed to an in-person fall semester, utilizing a phased-in approach. We will begin with orientation and connection days on August 24 and 25. Our virtual learning will start on August 26 – September 11. This will be twelve days, 2 six-day student schedule cycles, online. Monday, September 14 is a faculty professional development day. There is no school. Our plan is to open on Tuesday, September 15 for every-other-day in-person instruction provided Dane County guidelines allow.

- During the first 2 weeks online, staff is developing a plan to bring students into the school (abiding by social distancing guidelines) to train on new safety procedures and social distancing policies.

The goals for the first two weeks online are:

- Teachers have time to feel safe and comfortable with safety plans and ask for any improvements or modifications before students arrive in classrooms
- Teachers will have 2 weeks to implement the new virtual program and continue to make any changes/improvements so this program is tested and ready if we are mandated by Dane County to move to 100% online at any time during the year.

We are tracking Dane County COVID data and guidelines from Dane County Public Health. The data most relevant to EHS are: 1) Remaining below a threshold of 5% for positive tests as a percent of total tests averaged across the most recent 14-day period. 2) Dane County Public Health has stated that they will have the school-reopening/school-closing guidelines out in the coming days and we will share that as it becomes available or if the criteria changes.

We are committed to reevaluating the learning model and the Dane County health metrics every 2 cycles or 12 days. As of today, Dane County is permitting in-school instruction if you can adhere to the minimum of 6 feet apart social distancing and wearing masks indoors. If this rule changes in either direction, we will continuously reassess and determine how many students we can safely serve in the building. It is our goal to get back in school 100% as soon as safety guidelines allow.

continued...





Every member of the Edgewood faculty and staff cares deeply about students and shares a desire for in-person instruction. We are committed to being nimble as the pandemic numbers allow, rather than waiting until the end of the quarter or semester as many other schools have done. In other words, we have the unique ability to move between an in-person and quality virtual model as is necessary (depending on the situation) to do what is best for our students. That said, please keep in mind we are also committed to public health and safety, and are governed by Dane County Public Health guidelines.

Our faculty has been working all summer to revise our virtual instruction model, based on feedback from parents and students in the spring. Please watch this informational video <https://youtu.be/8f3xKVavGp4> for a description of our plan, from one of the summer planners, Natalie Koblenki, English Department Chair.

The virtual option will still be available for those whose family situations require it, even as we offer in-person instruction.

Our every-other-day in-person model is the students' normal schedule with in-school instruction every other day. On their days at home, they will be given work that builds off the in-person curriculum. More details will be provided on this model soon. (Please visit the EHS website later this week).

Tuition funds our faculty and staff salaries. We are going to do everything in our power to have in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. Further, we have worked tirelessly to improve our online model which will function closely as a virtual version of your student's current schedule and class day. Our faculty and staff are working even more hours to prepare to teach in multiple models of instruction. A tuition reduction is not viable as we are not reducing staffing so that we may continue to provide a high-quality college and career preparatory education.

We appreciate offers of support from the vast array of medical professionals in the EHS community. Our school nurse, Sue Richards, meets regularly with physicians, the school nursing association, and the state nursing association. School health and safety plans are in development and will be shared in conjunction with the start of school. We are grateful for all of the shared resources and information.

Members of the Board of Trustees' Facilities Committee are working with EHS staff on air filtration upgrades in our building and continue to explore all options to make our facilities as safe as possible.

Our school opening plan – Crusader Comeback – can be found on our EHS website tomorrow at https://www.edgewoodhs.org/covid-19_update and will be the source of the most up-to-date information. This includes information about the quality virtual model, the every-other-day in-person model, and the optional virtual learning model. We will be posting frequently asked questions relating to our plans as things are updated or changed.

Thank you for your feedback, your patience and for working in partnership to help us provide the best possible education during these challenging times. Most of all thank you for being part of the Edgewood High School community.

Mike Elliott, President
Beth Steffen, Principal

